

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## **REGION VIII**

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500 DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

JUN 0 2 1992

Ref: 8HWM-FF

Mr. Frazer Lockhart Department of Energy Rocky Flats Office P.O. Box 928 Golden, CO 80402-0928

re: Extension Request for OU1

Draft RFI/RI Report

Dear Mr. Lockhart:

Your requested extension of 123 days for the draft Phase III RFI/RI Report for OU1 has been received and reviewed. The stated justification for this extension is that both laboratory turnaround for radionuclide analysis and the data validation process are taking longer than the times agreed to in the detailed schedules of the Interagency Agreement (IAG). Since both of these processes are aspects of the upcoming EPA laboratory audit, our decision on this extension request will be deferred until the audit is complete.

For your information this audit is being designed to investigate the following:

- laboratory capacity, utilization, and availability
- laboratory qualification protocol
- contract quality, quantities, and start dates
- contract incentives and penalties
- streamlining the flow of information
- validation procedures
- impact of RFEDS

Once the audit has been completed, its findings and recommendations will be used to support our decision regarding the request for extension.

We would like to emphasize another important element that may have contributed to the present situation. Actual fieldwork for this investigation did not start until August 1991, five months later than specified in the detailed schedules supporting the IAG. Although the milestone for completing this fieldwork was met, if the fieldwork had started on time, your request for an extension might not have been necessary.

Please contact either or both of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Martin Hestmark, EPA

Manager

Rocky Flats Project

Gary Baughman, CDH

Unit Leader

Hazardous Waste Facilities

cc: James K. Hartman, DOE

Scott Grace, DOE Cindy Gee, EG&G